

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 05820 110654 Z

11/20

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SS-15 L-03 SR-02 ORM-03 PRS-01 SCA-01

VO-03 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

INRE-00 DODE-00 FBIE-00 SY-10 INSE-00 RSR-01 SSO-00

USIE-00 EUR-25 /100 W

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3773

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 5820

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (P A R A . 1 1 . , L I N E 1 7)

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS

SUBJECT: CZECH REFUGEES REQUEST FOR POLITICAL ASYLUM

REF: CHARLSON TELECON WITH OPS CENTER.

1. EMBASSY HAS BEEN APPROACHED BY THREE CZECH CITIZENS SEEKING
POLITICAL ASYLUM. THEY ARE:

A. JOSEF PRACH

DPOB 12 OCTOBER 49 PILZEN

OCC. TECHNICIAN OF MACHINERY TRADE

ADDRESS: DOBRANY OKR. PILZEN

PP. NO. 1685248

B. KAREL HAVELKA

DPOB 12 JULY 1950 CZECHOSLOVAKIA

OCC. TECHNICIAN OF BUILDING TRADE

ADDRESS: DOBRANY 485, OKR. PILZEN

PP. NO. 1685248

C. VRATISLAV DRAHA

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TOKYO 05820 110654 Z

DPOB 21 JULY 46 LIBEREC, CZECHOSLOVAKIA
OCC. TECHNICIAN OF BUILDING TRADE
ADDRESS: BOROVNICKA 46 OKR. TRUFNOR
PP. NO. 2294942

2. NONE OF THREE ARE MARRIED. NONE ARE CP MEMBERS, BUT ALL ARE MEMBERS OF COMMUNIST YOUTH LEAGUE. ALL CLAIM THEY HAVE NEVER BEEN ARRESTED AND HAVE NO CRIMINAL CHARGES PENDING AGAINST THEM IN JAPAN OR ELSEWHERE. NONE HAVE HELD ANY GOVERNMENT POSITION. DRAHA HAS SERVED IN CZECH ARMY AS DRIVER, HAVELKA AS BUILDING TECHNICIAN. PRACH HAS NO MILITARY SERVICE. ALL HAVE INFORMED PARENTS OR RELATIVES PRIOR TO LEAVING CZECHOSLOVAKIA THAT THEY WOULD SEEK ASYLUM ONCE ABROAD.

3. GOJ AUTHORITIES HAVE BEEN INFORMED OF PRESENCE OF ABOVE INDIVIDUALS IN EMBASSY AND OF THEIR REQUEST FOR ASYLUM. CZECH EMBASSY HAS INFORMED FONOFF THAT DRAHA IS MISSING AND HAVE REQUESTED INFO ON HIS WHEREABOUTS. FONOFF HAS REPLIED THAT IT CHECKING.

4. DRAHA SPEAKS ONLY CZECH AND FEW WORDS OF RUSSIAN. PRACH SPEAKS GOOD RUSSIAN AND SOME ENGLISH. HAVELKA SPEAKS GOOD ENGLISH AND GOOD RUSSIAN.

5. NONE OF THREE HAVE ANY RELATIVES IN THE U. S. ALTHOUGH HAVELKA CLAIMS HAVE FRIEND IN NEW YORK, MRS. JUDY WEINER, AND TO HAVE SEVERAL OTHER ACQUAINTANCES IN U. S.

6. ALL HAVE CATEGORICALLY STATED THAT THEY COULD NOT RETURN TO THEIR TOUR GROUP BECAUSE THEY WOULD BE IMPRISONED UPON RETURN TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

7. ALL HAVE INDICATED THEY WOULD BE WILLING TO GO TO SOME OTHER COUNTRY IF THEY COULD NOT BE ACCEPTED IN THE U. S. THEIR PREFERENCE IS FOR CANADA OR AUSTRALIA.

8. DRAHA HAS IN HIS POSSESSION 10,000 JAPANESE YEN, SEVENTY U. S. DOLLARS AND ABOUT 800 GERMAN MARKS. PRACH AND HAVELKA HAVE BETWEEN THEM 1000 GERMAN MARKS. NONE HAVE THEIR RETURN TICKETS. THESE WERE RETAINED BY THE TOUR LEADER.

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PAGE 03 TOKYO 05820 110654 Z

9. ALL HAVE VALID VISAS GOOD UNTIL 26 JUNE. ALL WERE MEMBERS OF A COMMUNIST YOUTH LEAGUE DELEGATION MAKING EXTENSIVE TOUR OF JAPAN. GROUP SCHEDULED DEPART JAPAN 26 MAY. THEY ARRIVED 4 MAY VIA MOSCOW TO KHABAROVSK BY AIR, TRAIN TO NAKHODKA, SHIP TO YOKOHAMA.

10. ALL CLAIM THAT THEY HAVE HAD NO CONNECTIONS WITH CZECH

SECRET POLICE, HAVE NO RELATIVES OR FRIENDS THEREIN NOR IN HIGH GOVERNMENT OR PARTY POSITIONS, THAT THEY ARE NOT NARCOTICS USERS AND ARE IN GOOD HEALTH. ALL APPEAR BE IN GOOD PHYSICAL CONDITION AND ALL GIVE APPEARANCE OF BEING RATIONA AND STABLE.

11. CIRCUMSTANCES OF APPROACHING EMBASSY. HAVELKA AND PRACH LEFT TOUR GROUP MORNING OF 10 MAY IN HIROSHIMA, TOOK TRAIN TO TOKYO, ARRIVING EARLY MORNING 11 MAY. CAME DIRECTLY TO EMBASSY FROM TRAIN STATION. DRAHA CLAIMS LEFT TOUR GROUP ON 5 MAY, TOOK TAXI TO HANEDA WITH INTENTION FLYING TO HONG KONG WHENCE HE WOULD ATTEMPT GO TO US. DISCOVERED THAT HE COULD NOT GO TO HONG KONG WITHOUT VISA, SO RETURNED TO TOKYO. HOWEVER AT AIRPORT CLAIMS HE RAN INTO AMERICAN PROFESSOR OF CZECH BACKGROUND WHOM HE HAD EARLIER MET ON SHIP FROM NAKHODKA TO YOKOHAMA. THIS PROFESSOR, DR. JIRI NEHNEVAJSA OF UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH, WROTE A LETTER FOR DRAHA TO THE EMBASSY ASKING FOR HELP FOR HIM TO GO TO U. S. DRAHA SPENT NEXT SEVERAL DAYS IN TOKYO, AND CLAIMS THAT WENT TWICE TO EMBASSY WITH INTENT APPLY FOR VISA. PRODUCED VISA FORMS WHICH HE HAD FILLED OUT BUT NOT SUBMITTED. IN MEANTIME HE HAD BEEN BEFRIENDED BY AN AMERICAN TOURIST, LEONARD BECKETT OF SAUSALITO, CALIFORNIA, WHO PHONED EMBASSY ON HIS BEHALF. DRAHA CAME TO EMBASSY MORNING 11 MAY AND SUBMITTED WRITTEN REQUEST FOR ASYLUM. PRACH AND HAVELKA INCIDENTALLY, ALSO CALIM THAT THEY TALKED TO NEHNEVAJSA ABOUT POSSIBILITY SEEKING ASYLUM TO U. S. DRAHA CLAIMS THAT NEHNEVAJSA TOLD HIM THAT THERE WERE THREE OTHERS BESIDES HIMSELF ON THE TOUR WHO PLANNED SEEK ASYLUM IN U. S. FROM JAPAN. TO DATE HAVE NOT HEARD FROM FOURTH MAN.

12. WE WILL KEEP THREE INDIVIDUALS IN THE EMBASSY UNTIL WE RECEIVE INSTRUCTIONS RE THEIR HANDLING.
INGERSOLL

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